(c) New Railway Division at Rangiya on Northeast Frontier Railway has already been operationalised w.e.f. 01.4.2003.

Additional bogies for Godavari 'Pushkarmas''

670. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway propose to run 25 special trains and attach additional bogies in trains through Rajahmundri for forthcoming Godavari "Pushkarmas;

(b) what other facilities Government are going to provide to pilgrims attending 'Pushkarmas'; and

(c) the number of days these trains will run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional booking counters with Self Printing Ticket Machines, waiting sheds, drinking water raps, toilets, enquiry counters with BSNL telephone facility, public address system, catering stalls, first aid centres, ambulance, I.E.D. display boards are being provided. Besides, augmentation of the existing services have been planned depending upon the waitlist position on day-to-day basis subject to load factor.

(c) 12 days i.e. from 30.7.2003.to 10.8.2003.

Agartala-Sabroon Rail Line

671. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways are going to take up any plan to connect the capital cities of the North-Eastern States by railway lines;

(b) progress made towards laying of railway lines from Agartala to Sabroon in Tripura; and

(c) whether the provision of fund will be made to start the preliminary work of railways from Agartala to Sabroon during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The following three new line

projects have already been included in the budget to provide connectivity to State Capitals in the N.E. Region:

(i) Harmuti-ltanagar

(ii) Diphu-Karong as first phase of BG line to Imphal

(ii) Kumarghat-Agartala.

The work on Kumarghat-Agartala is in progress. The surveys for alternative alignment for Harmuti-ltangar from Bediti to Itanagar and Dihpu-Karong from Jiribam to Imphal have been taken up on the requests of State Governments. The survey from Jiribam to Imphal has been completed and proposal has been processed further.The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

(b) to (c) Survey for new line from Agartala to Sabroon was completed in May, 2000. As per the survey, the cost of construction of this 110 km. line has been assessed as Rs. 370 crore. In view of the heavy throw forward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources, it is not considered feasible to take up the project.

Introduction of Kaifi Azmi Express

672. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to introduce a direct train from Mumbai to Azamgarh *via* Bandra, Vapi, Surat, Bhusawal and Varanasi by the name of 'Kaifi Azmi Express' in the fond memory of the renowned poet Kaifi Azmi; and

(b) if so, the action taken, so far, to introduce the above train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, frequency of 5025/5026 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Godan Express via Azamgarh has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly from July 2003 Time Table.